

Grace Church Visitor

A Monthly Magazine Devoted to the Interest of Grace Reformed Church

FORT WAYNE INDIANA

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No. 5

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Services each evening during Easter week, beginning at 8 o'clock.

The pastor will preach Monday, Thursday and Friday evenings.

Rev. H. B. Diefenbach, of Bluffton, will preach on Wednesday evening.

Communion service, baptism and reception of members on Easter morning.

Monthly meeting of the Woman's Missionary Society on Friday afternoon, April 10, at the church.

Monthly meeting of the Woman's Aid Society Thursday afternoon, April 16th.

Chicken supper at the church Thursday evening, April 16, by the women of the second section. 25 cents.

Monthly meeting of the Laymen's League Tuesday evening, April 21st.

The Easter offering. Let us make it a liberal one.

The Every Member Canvass Campaign is now on. It may require some time before the canvassers will get around to all of the people, but every member is to be seen and solicited for a pledge for the current expenses of the church and a separate pledge for the apportionment. We are hoping and asking for a very cheerful and substantial response from the people.

The "Go To Church" campaign brought some good results for the churches and for the people. We noticed in our own church some people out to the services who had not been in attendance for a long time. The weather was anything but favorable for the campaign, but we hope the effort will tell in permanent results. It has shown that what some people need is encouragement and a reminder of their duties.

THE EASTER OFFERING.

This brief article is intended specially for the members of Grace church.

The Easter offering will be applied on the apportionment of the church. It will be for Home and Foreign Missions, Church Extension, and for the education of young men for the gospel ministry. The amount Grace church is apportioned for the year beginning May 1st, 1913, to May 1st, 1914, is \$5,475.00, or \$1.84 for each member. In looking over the financial secretary's book we find that fully one-half of the members of the church have not paid a cent to this fund during the year. They will now have an opportunity to redeem themselves. Others have paid small amounts toward the apportionment, but not as much as they might have and should have paid. We are going to ask all of the members of the church and the Sunday School to contribute as liberally as possible to the Easter offering with the hope that we shall be able to pay the full amount of the apportionment for the year. Every member will be furnished with a special envelope for the offering.

THE GLORIOUS EASTER TRUTH.

(By J. H. Bomberger, D. D.)

We come; and stay a little while; and then the tale that is told reaches its final chapter. Death beckons to us. One by one we follow him.

Where?

Anywhere?

"If a man die shall he live again?" is not merely a Bible text; it is the tragic heart-cry of Humanity. *There is absolutely no answer to it save that of the Easter Voice. And the Easter Voice is*

*merely the Master saying: "Let not your hearts be troubled * * * I go to prepare a place for you."*

What a glorious Voice it is as it sounds its blessed note of eternal assurance out amid earth's helpless, hopeless silence in the contemplation of coming centuries—which none of us shall be here to welcome.

The Easter Voice speaks a message of hope, which turns black despair into radiant certainty.

What if we shall not be here after a few years have passed! We have the Master's promise that "where He is there we shall be also." Is not that enough? We can leave details to him. We have the outlines of immortal hope; He may fill them in as He pleases. His knowledge is better than our knowing. The tomb that could not hold *Him* will be powerless to hold *His*. True, none of us will be here in a hundred years, but we shall be somewhere—*somewhere with Him*.

Forever with the Lord.

Amen, so let it be.

Life for the dead is in that word,
'Tis immortality.

And because of the sure promise of Him "who brought life and immortality to light," we can look forward into that future, when earth shall not know us, undismayed; with hearts gladly echoing the cheery message of the Easter bells; sustained by the conviction that there has been implanted in our souls "the power of an endless life."

And how the joyful accents of that same Easter Voice cause earth's mountain-high troubles to shrink to mole-hill dimensions.

Thomas Lawson, the Boston financier, told how, at one point in his meteoric career, when almost crushed by adverse circumstances, he found mental poise in the thought: *What will it all matter a million years from now?* Paul had a better specific for trouble. His formula was: *"For the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed to us-ward"*

And this is what Easter's reminder of

the eternal years that await our coming, can do to help us see earth's trials in their true proportions. When looming through the nearby mists of this present time we shrink before them. But when seen as a mere detail in the foreground of immortality's perspective we begin to understand how comparatively small they are, and almost smile at our fears.

Who could not endure the stress of a stormy voyage for the sake of the waiting haven! What genuine comfort there is for those whose burdens are heavy and whose pathway is rough, in the knowledge that the journey is short at longest, and its goal is Heaven and Christ!

Measured by the rich significance of the Easter message, how paltry and petty earth's cherished bitternesses appear.

A few years go by and death's withering wind blows across the plain and pride and hate and vanity and vindictiveness are, like the blossoms in last week's bouquet. How many of the pages of history are the records of the mutual hatreds and sordid squabbling of those whose dust was quickly mingled in the common pile. ... Filled with the blood-lust of battle countless multitudes have been thrust out into an eternity of ceaseless regret for their wretched perversion of earth's opportunities.

The hates of theological differences, political controversy, or social clashing—how petty they all seem as measured by the distant future! Long before its coming hater and hated will have gone out into eternity, and their poor little animosities will have shrivelled into insignificance. When the great ship goes down and crew and passengers are struggling for life in the waves eager to engulf them, how quickly values shrink. Wealth and station and beauty count for nothing, and all alike are merely desperately struggling men and women with life as their sole stake.

And so, when the flying years fling life into the waves of eternity, so many of the things that bulked so large in time, became valueless, and, no doubt many a soul passed on looks back with retrospective wonder at the scale of

values which determined his earth-life estimates.

And what a stirring challenge to high and noble living that thought of the future sounds forth for us all on Easter day?

When that time comes we shall not be here, but we shall be *somewhere*, and our present aims and desires and purposes will determine *where*. Who, outside of Sacred Writ, has ever put the truth in choicer phrase than Bryant?

"So live that when thy summons comes to join

The innumerable caravan, that moves
To the pale realms of shade, where each
shall take

His chamber in the silent halls of death,
Thou go not, like the quarry-slave at
night

Scourged to his dungeon; but sustained
and soothed

By an unfaltering trust, approach thy
grave,

Like one who wraps the drapery of his
couch

About him, and lies down to pleasant
dreams."

Universal experience proclaims our mortality. Easter alone—but Easter in accents of infinite authority—proclaims a Future.

But life itself—each life for itself—determines the quality of that endless life which shall be ours on the farther side of time.

"So live," is the clue word to a blessed immortality. *And "so live," according to Christ's interpretation of it, means: Live in and for Christ here and you shall live forever with Christ over there.*

For him whose life is "hid with Christ in God," *the thought of an earthly future, and he not here to greet it, casts no shadow!*

The ladies of the church were entertained at a social afternoon at the home of Mrs. George Miller on Crescent Ave. Thursday, March 26th. Mrs. McAfee, Mrs. Charles Crum, Mrs. W. F. Close and Mrs. Frank Leikauf assisted in en-

tertaining. The women had a very pleasant social afternoon together.

Section No. 2 will serve a chicken supper Thursday evening, April 16, from 5 to 8 o'clock. Managers—Mrs. Geo. Hesserdt, Mrs. C. H. Gumpfer, Mrs. S. Wertman, Mrs. Henry Kessler. Assistants—Mesdames Carl Kessler, John Ruck, W. G. Page, Christian Waldo, Charles Masel, Laura King, Alfred Barbier, S. Schrack, Viola Canning, James Quinn, Burt Weaver, Julia Croyle, Martha Wisong, Rose Kline, David Schlatter, W. Botteran, Carrie Eckart, Celia Hostman, Ed Riley, C. C. Gumpfer, Louis Bereot, William Martin, Peter Schible, Frank Martin, Sarah Pappert, Edward Hesserdt, Chas. Robinson, George Gemmer, and the Misses Dr. Bertha Goba, Rose Goba, Ruth Gumpfer, Emma Bereot, Carrie Quickley, Evelyn Wertman, Mildred Wertman, Sofa Rieter and Marie Barbier.

The entertainment given by the Agenda Class on March 3rd was a success in every way. They gave the audience just what they had promised, an evening of wholesome and mirth-provoking "fun." Everybody was pleased with the efforts of the young men. They did some good stunts. Their receipts were about \$30.00. In more ways than one these young men are making themselves helpful in the Sunday School and church. They have given an inspiration to other classes in the Sunday School and to the older members of the church. They have increased the enrollment of the class from six to twenty-one. Other classes have caught the inspiration and are doing what they can to increase their enrollment. The pastor has more than appreciated the helpfulness of these young men in the church services. Recently they have been occupying a pew just in front of the pulpit, filling up the gap between the congregation and the preacher. They appreciate how difficult it is for a preacher to do his best in preaching with three or more empty pews staring him in his face just in front of the pulpit. "Go and do likewise."

Grace Church Visitor

SUNDAY SCHOOL NOTES.

 REV. A. ZARTMAN, Editor and Publisher

 Subscription Price, 25 cents per year

Mrs. William Fosler is very sick at the Lutheran hospital with pneumonia. The latest reports are that she is some better and that there are good hopes of her recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. Gavin are both sick, and have not been able to be out for a week or more. Their daughter, Mrs. McAndrews, from St. Thomas, Mich., is at home for a few weeks.

Mrs. Walters has been quite ill at the home of Mr. and Mrs. D. Mullen. She is very much better and hopes to be able to be out again in a short time.

Mrs. Close is very much missed from the Bible Class and from our church services. She has not been able to get out for the past two or three months. We are praying and hoping that when Spring comes and the weather becomes more favorable, she will feel better and that we may have her with us again at the services.

It was certainly a great privilege to have Dr. Bomberger with us again for a week's services. His sermons were full of thought and inspiration. It was unfortunate that the weather was so bad for several evenings. We know that our people will be glad to read his article, "The Glorious Easter," in this issue of the Visitor. We hope, after reading the article, many more of our families will want to have the Christian World, of which he is editor, come to their homes. The price of the paper is \$1.50 a year. The pastor will be glad to send in your subscription.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Leikauf are now occupying rooms with Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Thiebolt, at 736 W. Berry street. The house on E. Wayne street which they occupied for so many years, was recently sold. Later they will be at home in their own house on E. Washington street.

The Sunday School is planning for a special Easter service consisting of appropriate songs, recitations, etc. There will be special Easter souvenirs for all. We are very anxious indeed to have a full representation and invitation cards will be sent to all members urging them to attend. The Easter offering should be a large one and will be used for benevolence. Easter offering envelopes have been distributed and we hope to have a liberal response from the members of the school.

The attendance has been showing some gratifying gains the past few weeks and we are planning to make the Easter attendance a record one. We want every member of every class, as well as the babies on the cradle roll, at the Easter services.

The Agenda class have curtained off the gallery in the auditorium and are using it for a class room. While it is not just as convenient as might be wished, it will make an acceptable class room for the present.

Nearly all of the classes in our school are now organized and are planning for a vigorous campaign to increase their membership and interest in the Sunday School work.

It would do some of the church members good to get out to the sessions of Sunday School and by their presence and influence help the work along. This is an important branch of the church that should not be neglected; come to Sunday School; let us enroll you and be one to help swell the membership to 200 or 250.

Mrs. Frank More entertained the Woman's Missionary Society Thursday afternoon, March 19th. The society had a very pleasant and interesting afternoon.

Mr. Wilbert has been off the road for two weeks suffering from inflammatory rheumatism. He hopes to be able to go out on his engine again in a short time.

The monthly business meeting of the Young People's Society will be held at the home of Miss Ruth More, 243 E. Creighton Ave., Tuesday evening, April 14th.

The society is making an effort to have all the young people of the church attend the services each evening during Easter week. The president is especially desirous of having them all at the service on Wednesday night when Rev. H. B. Diefenbach, of Bluffton, will preach for us.

DEATHS.

Louis Amos Guillaume died at the home of August Guillaume on Randolph street Saturday, March 14. He was born at Berne, Switzerland, June 6th, 1828. He was aged 85 years, 9 months and 8 days. He was confirmed in the Reformed church in Switzerland, when he was a young man. He was a quiet and good-hearted man. He leaves to mourn his death one daughter and two sons. The funeral services were held at the home of his son on Tuesday morning, March 17th.

Henry Richards died at Hope hospital Wednesday evening, March 18. He was the son of Henry and Louise Richards and was born in Fort Wayne Oct. 9, 1857. Aged 56 years, 5 months and 9 days. He was baptized in infancy and was confirmed in the St. John's Reformed church. When a young man he left the city and located in Lima, Ohio, where he was married to Miss Bessie Owens. After the death of his wife three years ago he returned to Fort Wayne and made his home with his sister, Mrs. Louis Martin, the only surviving member of the family. He united with the Grace Reformed church on Easter Sunday, April 7th, 1912. A few hours before the end came he said to the pastor, "I am going home." He seemed to be eagerly awaiting the time when he might go and be at rest. The funeral services were held from the home of his sister Saturday afternoon, March 21st.

At last we will all have to start on that dark journey. We must all die and go out beyond the air, and up through the stars somewhere.—Rev. A. A. Hodge, D. D.

Miss Beatrice Benninghof had a very narrow escape for her life on Sabbath morning, March 1st. As she was preparing to take a bath her clothing caught fire from a gas stove. Unable to extinguish the flames herself, she ran downstairs, where, with the assistance of her father and mother, the fire was put out, but not until she had been badly burned about her limbs. She has been in intense agony ever since the accident and while the doctor gives every assurance of her recovery, she is still in great pain and it may be some time before she will be able to be out of bed. She is very nervous from the shock and suffering, and the doctor feels that she must be kept very quiet.

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Y. P. S. C. E. TOPICS AND LEADERS.

April 5. Twelve Great Verses. iv. The power verse—I John 4:15. (Consecration meeting.) Elsie Weickart.

April 12. A Look Ahead Meeting. I Cor. 15:35-58. (Easter meeting.) Ester Fritz.

April 19. The Consecration of Time. Eccl. 3:1-8. (Sabbath observance meeting.) Lizzie Rudissill.

April 26. Our Tongues for Christ. Ex. 4:10-16. (Led by the prayer meeting committee.)

May 3. Twelve Great Verses. v. The faith verse—Heb. 11:1.

The Booster Committee of the Local Union had charge of the prayer meeting Sunday evening, March 29. They did some boosting in speaking, singing and with their orchestra.

The Local Union will hold services at the Crescent Ave. Evangelical church on Easter Sunday at 3 p. m. All the Endeavorers in the city are expected at this service.

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